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Friday, December 7, 2012

THE MORNING NEWS

Seasons Greetings



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Aruba maintains category 1 FAA certification!



ORANJESTAD -- Last week the Aruba government received the good news from the Federal Aviation Administration of America that Aruba will maintain her number 1 category certification. FAA expressed their satisfaction with the manner in which Aruba is handling her aviation security. Every year Aruba is visited by the FAA to ascertain whether Aruba is complying with the stipulated regulations. We are proud to

report that ever since 1997 Aruba has consistently maintained her high level.

Another positive report is the information received from the European Commission, who after a visit to the Department of Civil Aviation confirmed in a letter that all aspects that were pending with Aruba have been concluded. The island of Aruba now also enjoys the appreciation from the European Commission regarding our aviation security.

The Minister of Tourism

was especially pleased with this news. In view of the fact that Aruba is about 90% dependant on tourism, aviation security ought to be a top priority. During his recent visit to Washington, the Minister was under the impression that the FAA executives were pleased with Aruba's excellent security management.

The Minister congratulated the director, staff and personnel of the Department of Civil Aviation for their contribution to our excellent performance.



View of Les Chrysalides de Saint-Jean installation by artist Damien Fontaine at the Saint-Jean Cathedral for the "Festival of Lights" in central Lyon. The Festival of Lights, with designers from all over the world, is one of Lyon's most famous Festivals to date and will run from December 6 to December 9, 2012 (AFP)

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Aruba's cruise tourism well represented at 2012 SeatradeMed



MARSEILLE - The ninth edition of the Seatrade Med Cruise & Superyacht Convention ended in Marseille, having welcomed participants through its doors from 27-29 November 2012, including a record-breaking number of delegates at the two and a half day conference.

Over 140 companies exhibited at this year's Seatrade Med, which included the New Supplier Zone and SYRREN Business Networking, both for the first time, as well as Top Cruise travel agent training and a compre-

hensive conference program.

The two entities in charge of the cruise industry on Aruba, the Aruba Tourism Authority and the Aruba Ports Authority, represented Aruba. The four-day conference allowed executives of the different cruise lines, especially those from European lines and representatives from different destinations, the opportunity to explore possibilities for working together. Different Caribbean destinations once again were together in the Caribbean Village, among others, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua,

Dominican Republic and of course Aruba as one of the preferred destinations in the Caribbean.

ATA was represented by our Cruise & Niche Market Manager, Gloria Vega and APA was represented by director Alfonso Boekhoudt and Tamara Waldron. They were in charge of communications and port marketing. Aruba's reps were also able to attend different workshops and a visit to the port of Marseille. During one of the workshops, the different destinations were able to present their biggest projects for the 2014 to 2018 which is in its final phase.

On the first day of the conference there was an event dubbed, "A Taste of the Tropics" where the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) together with the Caribbean destinations united to offer a reception for the participants and executives and welcomed them into the Caribbean region. Aruba participated in different meetings and held two interviews which were to promote and market Aruba among the European cruise lines.

Aruba in the limelight with respect to our "green" intentions!

ORANJSTAD -- Former secretary of infrastructure and environment for the Dutch Kingdom, Joop Atsma, was among the delegation that went to the UN Rio+20 Conference in Brazil last August.

Thus, he was witness to Aruba's signing of an agreement with the Carbon War Room to make Aruba 100% sustainable by 2020. On that occasion, Atsma held talks with both Richard Branson and Mike Eman. He recalls Eman's discussion about our waste management program and how to convert waste into energy.

Atsma reports that Holland is a forerunner in this field with its 80% waste recycling program. The control and proper management of waste is an important instrument to limit Co2. Together with Carbon War Room, the University of Harvard and the New American Foundation, Aruba is working diligently on defining a strategy on how to achieve our ambitious goal.

Atsma applauds Aruba for her ambitious intent on becoming 100% green by 2020. He said this goal is especially challenging in these difficult economic times. But, that he will follow the developments of the implementation of the program for Aruba. He is con-



vinced that Aruba's goal has many benefits for the island. He is convinced that a truly green island will be even more attractive for tourists and making the island green will definitely create a new positive impulse for its economy.

Bonaire is searching for a way to piggy back on Aruba's green development. TNO Caribe is studying ways to benefit from this in the area of durability if both islands work together.

In the entire process, the Dutch government's role will be to simply support and cooperate with Aruba, but that Aruba ought to make her own decisions as an autonomous member of the Kingdom. According to Atsma... "we can bring in our experience and knowledge wherever this is required to help Aruba realize her own ambitions."

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A weekend of gourmet dining for grand opening of Ike's Bistro begins this Saturday



Executive Chef George Hoek and Chef de Pena

The culinary department of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa has long been famous for excellent and affordable quality. Resort GM Edgar Roelofs

was proud to join F & B Director Gerald Sarmiento and Executive Chef George Hoek in inviting all the community and island visitors to come sample the innovative new dishes from their exceptionally talented and creative Chef Ever de Pena, which will comprise the menu of their charming new restaurant, Ike's Bistro.

It is named for the deceased founder of the resort, Ike Cohen, who is a legend in Aruba's restaurant and hotel industry. Chef de Pena, a graduate of Aruba's famed EPI Culinary Institute and certi-

fied by the American Culinary Federation, expressed his desire to live up to Ike's legacy with a unique Mediterranean menu prepared with a dash of Caribbean flavor.

Island media was invited to enjoy a tempting sample of the new menu, which will debut at their grand opening event this weekend, beginning on Saturday, December 8. Each day, through Tuesday, December 11, a four-course meal will be served of Chef Pena's signature dishes, with complimentary wine pairing selected by local wine connoisseur Govert van der Hout of Arion Wine Company. The cost for this gourmet adventure only is \$48 per person, which includes

wine with each course.

Ike's Bistro will also welcome celebrity chef Alberto Ughetto from Provence, France for the weekend introduction to the new eatery. The restaurant's theme, "Where the Mediterranean Meets the Caribbean" will be creatively explored in collaboration with Chef de Pena during the four days. The two culinary giants will be preparing singular dishes paired with award-winning wines for the entertainment of those attending.

Taste testers during the announcement of the upcoming event had to admit they were quite impressed with the items sampled from the Ike's Bistro menu. Dishes such



Civeche with Mango and avocado

as flaky Spanakopita and Red Pepper Hummus, tender Falafel and Greens, and one of the finest ceviches they had ever tasted, made distinctive with avocado and mango in just the right proportions left everyone looking for a second helping. The selection of appetizers was certainly incentive to indulge in the upcoming weekend feast.

Reservations can be made for the grand opening of Ike's Bistro by calling 582-3444 or via e-mail: ikesbistro@manchebo.com.

Rosalie Klein



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'Den Cas cu Sinterklaas' was a huge success at Paseo Herencia



Recently, Paseo Herencia hosted a Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet event: the t.v. program "Den Cas cu Sinterklaas" (In the House with Sinterklaas). Young and old enjoyed themselves immensely, as there were different shows on the Plaza at Paseo Herencia.

Parents of Aruban kids took advantage of the great discounts the different stores had to offer, such as CROCS, who had a great offer on shoes that change colour when exposed to the sun. Tous launched their Kids Collection, New Blance put all their different products on display and Maggy's surprised everyone with a new collection of children's perfumes, and also for the 15yr-olds.

Paseo Kids Village also had different attractions for the kids such as the one and only Carousel on the island, Bumper Boats, Dino Jump and Face Painting.

"Keep pending for our 'End of the Year' event where the whole family can come and enjoy in a nice and safe atmosphere!, said a Paseo Herencia's spokesperson.



Aruba say's "Masha Danki"



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very loyal and friendly Distinguished Visitor of Aruba.

The honorees are:

Mr. Bryan Letson and Mrs. Debra Ann Letson residents of Rhode Island Bradford USA.


Mr. and Mrs. Letson are members of La Quinta Beach Resort and have been enjoying the Island every year.

The symbolic honorary

title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 20 years consecutive.

The main reasons why they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local food.

The certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority.



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Australian PM warns of 'zombie, K-Pop' doomsday

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard Thursday weighed into the debate about whether the world will end on December 21 under the Mayan calendar in a spoof video about Korean pop and flesh-eating zombies.

In a one-minute video address recorded for the youth radio station Triple J, a sombre-looking Gillard said the pending apocalypse was at hand despite there being no proof found by the "best and brightest" government scientists.

"My dear remaining fellow Australians, the end of the world is coming," she said, tongue in cheek.

"Whether the final blow comes from flesh-eating zombies, demonic hell-beasts or from the total triumph of K-Pop, if you know one thing about me it is this -- I will always fight for you to the very end."

"Good luck to you all."

Gillard recorded the message for a special "end of the world" programme being broadcast on Triple J Friday after Australian science writer Karl Kruszelnicki warned December 7 was the world's real end-date.

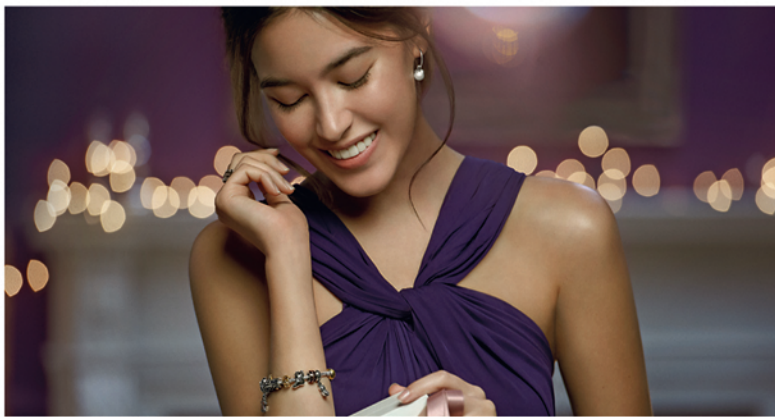
Kruszelnicki, a renowned author and science commentator, said he reached the date by putting the Mayan and Gregorian calendar into a complex algorithm combining mathematics and comedy. The video went viral on social media after being uploaded to YouTube, with most people seeing the funny side, although a few questioned whether it was a waste of taxpayers' money.

Triple J host Tom Ballard admitted he had been surprised when Gillard agreed to take part "but I'm grateful because everyone needs to be warned and informed", joking that he understood she had now retreated to a bunker.

"I don't think it's hilarious at all, I think it's a very serious matter and people are worried," Ballard told AFP.

He said he was anticipating "zombies, natural disasters, people not getting along very well, being quite mean to each other, and of course all the world's religions proving to be false" when the end came on Friday.

December 21 represents the end of a cycle in the Mayan long count calendar that began in the year 3114 before Christ.



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Loyal visitors honored by ATA at the Aruba Divi Village



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Aruba Divi Village, as Distinguished Visitor and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary

title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 and 20 or more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Kathy

Paulenich, Mr. Cliff and Mrs. Claudia Vaudreuil, Mr. Charles and Mrs. Sharon Nemser and Mr. Dean and Mrs. Diane Pastula.

The honorees are loyal members of the Aruba Divi Village, and they love the Island very much, because of

the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and the safety of the island. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with staff members of the Aruba Divi Village.

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International news

Washington state lights up as marijuana legalized

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Pot-smokers lit up in Washington state Thursday as recreational marijuana became legal in a historic first for the United States, clouded by the fact that federal law still bans the practice.

Midnight pot parties were reported across the western US state as a new law came into force following a November 6 referendum to legalize private consumption of marijuana for recreational use.

The law made it legal for those over 21 to possess and use up to an ounce (28 grams) of marijuana. A number of US states have already legalized pot for medicinal purposes, but Washington is the first allowing it purely for fun.

Colorado residents approved a similar law last

month, on the same day President Barack Obama's was re-elected, but its pot-lovers will have to wait until January 5 to light up with impunity.

But even while Washington's marijuana fans partied, the limits of the new law were underlined: the Space Needle gathering was technically illegal, since the new law allows only private, not public, consumption of weed.

Entrepreneurs are already eyeing the lucrative business opportunities provided by the advent of legal marijuana. Some have already dubbed them "ganja-preneurs."

"Our stores are going to have the feel of a fine cigar shop," Jamen Shiveley, an ex-Microsoft executive who hopes to open as many as a couple of dozen pot shops, told CNN.

Mass evacuation in Buenos Aires after chemical container explodes



Buenos Aires : A woman covers he mouth and nostrils as she walks on December 6, 2012 in Buenos Aires. Several buildings in downtown Buenos Aires were evacuated when a fire in a container loaded with a chemical substance near the port area released a toxic cloud with a strong stench, the Civil Defense said. (AFP PHOTO)

Brazil mourns iconic architect Niemeyer

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil on Thursday mourned its iconic architect Oscar Niemeyer as tributes poured in from around the world eulogizing a towering figure of modern architecture.

"I join the whole of Brazil in mourning him," ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva wrote Thursday, a day after Niemeyer passed away in Rio at the age of 104.

"He left us but will always be among us, present in the lines of buildings he designed in Brazil and around the world," he added.

Dressed in his favorite blue navy blue suit and a blue striped shirt, Niemeyer was embalmed in Rio early Thursday before being flown here.

A solemn memorial cere-

mony was being held in the Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, the futuristic capital he helped created.

Late Thursday, Niemeyer's body was to be flown back to his native Rio for a private wake by family and friends.

And early Friday, the body will lie in state hours before the burial at the Sao Joao Batista cemetery in Rio's Botafogo district.

Soon after Niemeyer's death was announced, President Dilma Rousseff hailed him as "one of Brazil's geniuses" and a "revolutionary who 'always dreamt of a more egalitarian society'".

Tributes poured in from abroad as well, with fellow winners of the Pritzker prize, likened to architecture's Nobel,

remembering Niemeyer as a colossus in his field and his flare for wavy, curvaceous structures as a source of inspiration and creativity.

UN Chief Ban Ki-moon hailed him as "a towering figure and one of the original architects of United Nations Headquarters in New York."

Foreign ministers of the Mercosur regional trade bloc gathered in Brasilia Thursday ahead of Friday's summit named him "an illustrious Mercosur citizen".

From Europe, British architect Norman Foster led tributes to Niemeyer, remembering him as an inspiration for himself and a generation of architects and that meeting him -- last year in Rio -- was like meeting one's hero.

Egypt's Morsi says will not tolerate killings or sabotage

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi said he will not tolerate killings or sabotage but will respect free speech, in a live address to the nation on Thursday after bloody clashes between his supporters and opponents.

"We respect peaceful freedom of speech but will never allow anyone to take part in killings and sabotage," he said in the speech which came amid the worst political crisis since his election in June.

On Thursday medics reported seven people had died in overnight clashes between Islamist Morsi supporters and secular-leaning opponents outside the presidential palace.

The anti-Morsi camp is furious with the president for his assuming sweeping powers two weeks ago and by what it feels was the railroading through by an Islamist-dominated panel of a draft constitution.

Egyptian protesters set fire to the Muslim Brotherhood's main headquarters in Cairo on Thursday after storming the large villa, a spokesman for Islamist movement told AFP.



Hamburg : An S-Bahn commuter train travels over snow-covered tracks in Hamburg, northern Germany, on December 6, 2012. Meteorologists forecast temperatures around freezing point for the upcoming days in Germany. (AFP PHOTO)

International News

Eccentric tech guru McAfee arrested in Guatemala



GUATEMALA CITY (AFP) - US Internet security guru John McAfee, on the run from authorities in Belize over a murder probe, has been arrested in Guatemala for illegally entering the country, police said.

The arrest of the eccentric 67-year-old entrepreneur-turned-adventurer marks the latest twist in a novel-like tale of intrigue involving a murdered American expatriate and allegations of drug-fueled escapades with guns and prostitutes.

Police spokesman Pablo Castillo told AFP that McAfee

had been arrested for entering the country illegally and Guatemala rejected an asylum petition from US Internet security guru John McAfee and said it would deport him back to Belize, where he is wanted for questioning in a murder probe.

The former Silicon Valley entrepreneur had been in hiding for more than three weeks until he crossed the border into Guatemala on Monday with his girlfriend Sam Vanegas, 20, after devising elaborate ruses to confuse police.

Belizean authorities are seeking to question McAfee as a person of interest over the November 11 killing of his neighbor, fellow American Gregory Faull, 52, who was shot in the head with a 9-mm and found in a pool of his own blood.

McAfee amassed an estimated \$100 million fortune during the early days of the Internet in the 1990s, designing the pioneering anti-virus software that bears his name.

London council rejects plans for mega-mosque

LONDON (AFP) - Plans by an Islamic group to build a giant mosque able to accommodate more than 9,000 worshippers in the shadow of London's Olympic Park have been rejected by the local authority.

Tablighi Jamaat, a missionary group with roots in India, has been trying since 1999 to build the mosque on a former chemical site in West Ham in east London, which would

have become one of the biggest Islamic centres in western Europe.

It would have included a prayer hall for up to 7,440 men and a separate facility for almost 2,000 women.

Newham Borough Council rejected the proposal at a planning meeting yesterday, saying it was not consistent with development plans for the area and citing concerns about the

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Chavez will not attend Mercosur summit

BRASILIA (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who traveled to Cuba for further cancer treatment a week ago, will not attend this week's Mercosur regional summit, host Brazil said Thursday.

Foreign Minister and Vice President, Nicolas Maduro, said last week that Chavez was doing well and closely following events from Cuba, where he is undergoing sessions of hyperbaric oxygenation, the breathing of pure oxygen in a sealed and pressurized chamber.

He did not say when Chavez would return to Venezuela.

The South American trading bloc plans to hold summit talks here today to mull the admission of Bolivia and Ecuador, with Venezuela attending for the first time as full member.

Brazilian officials said Presidents Cristina Kirchner of Argentina and Jose Mujica of Uruguay have confirmed their

presence while Bolivian President Evo Morales and his Ecuadoran counterpart Rafael Correa are scheduled to attend.

It will be the group's first enlargement since Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay set it up in 1991.

Paraguay, where the senate had blocked Venezuela's membership since 2006, was suspended from the organization in June, after the dismissal of Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo, and will not take part in the Brasilia summit.

With the admission of Venezuela, which boasts some of the world's largest oil reserves, the bloc is a now an energy and farming giant with a GDP of \$3.3 billion (83 percent of that of South America) and a population of 275 million.

Bolivia and Ecuador would boost Mercosur's population to nearly 300 million.

CNN to launch programming for Latinos in US

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Cable news giant CNN is to launch a new programming block aimed specifically at the growing Latino population living in the United States, the broadcaster announced.

CNN Latino, which will launch next month initially in Los Angeles, is "a new brand extension that targets the growing and diverse US Hispanic market," said Cynthia Hudson-Fernandez, general manager of CNN en Espanol.

The eight hours of daily programming will include news, lifestyle, documentary, talk and debate, as an alternative to

other established Hispanic networks. Over 14 million people in southern California will be able to tune in.

Hispanics constitute the largest minority tracked by the US Census, making up about 16 percent of the US population, but the proportion is expected to continue to grow in coming years and decades.

CNN en Español, CNN's independently produced 24-hour network in Spanish, is currently available in 30 million households Latin America, and seven million households across the United States.

size of the project and its impact on traffic.

"There are 90,000 Muslims around the borough," "The Muslim community is growing and there is need for bigger worship. We are extremely let down. We think it is unjust because of the demand of the local people and the Muslim community," community leader Ala Uddin Ahmed said.

The council is engaged in a separate legal fight against Tablighi Jamaat which it says no longer has permission to use part of the 6.6 hectare (16.5 acre) site to house a temporary mosque complex that can accommodate 2,500 people.

The plans to build the giant mosque sparked nationwide concern because of its size and past accusations that Tablighi Jamaat has radicalised young Muslims.

Tablighi Jamaat is the world's biggest Islamic missionary movement although it focuses its energies on Muslim communities rather than non-believers, according to a book on the group published by the charity Lapido Media.

Founded in India in 1926 to oppose Hinduism and British imperialism, it now operates in all countries where there are Muslims and has a worldwide membership of about 80 million. It has been active in Britain since 1944.



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Health & Living

Americans' biggest worry is access to health care

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Access to healthcare and its cost remain Americans' top medical concerns, two years after President Barack Obama's reforms were passed, a poll said.

Forty-two percent of those questioned in the Gallup poll said access or cost were the biggest problems the country faces in terms of health care.

Obama's reforms, which were upheld this year by the Supreme Court, oblige people to have health insurance. But the reform will not take full effect until 2014, which might help explain the lingering worries, Gallup said.

Access was the most urgent public health problem for 23 percent of those questioned, while cost was problem number one for 19 percent.

Not far behind was obesity, which 16 percent of those polled cited as the most urgent public health problem. Back in 1999, only one percent said the same.

The more acute jitters over obesity go hand in hand with a rise in the demographic, which has doubled between 1980 and 2008.

In fourth place, was cancer, health concern number one for 13 percent of Americans.

In 2001, bio-terrorism held the top slot as the number one public health worry, while from 1987 to 1999 it was AIDS.

This year's poll was conducted from November 15-18 among 1,015 adults and had a margin of error of four percentage points.

Looking for volunteers to transport rescue pups



Animal Relief Foundation Aruba (ARF) is looking for volunteers to transport pups to Madison, Milwaukee, Minneapolis or O'Hara on American or Delta. The pups are now three and a half months old and are very sweet and beautiful. They have been rescued on Aruba and will be put up for adoption in the US, where they will find a better life. Do you wish to volunteer as a transporter? Then call Kathy at 594-4453.

Mother beat son to death for failing to memorise Koran

LONDON (AFP) - A mother who beat her seven-year-old son to death for failing to learn the Koran by heart was found guilty by a British jury of murdering him and burning his body to hide the evidence.

Sara Ege, 33, a mathematics graduate from India, treated her son Yaseen like a "dog", beating him with a stick when he failed to memorise religious texts, Cardiff Crown Court in Wales heard.

Yaseen died in July 2010. It was initially thought that he had been killed in a fire at the family home in Pontcanna, Cardiff, but tests later revealed that he was dead before the blaze began.

Ege denied killing her son, instead blaming her husband. Yousef Ege, 38, was cleared of failing to prevent the death of his son.

She confessed to the murder, but later retracted the confession saying she had been forced into it by a threat of violence from her husband and his family.

In her confession, which was recorded by police and shown to the jury, Ege detailed how her son had collapsed after being mistreated on the day of his death still murmuring extracts from the Koran, the holy book of Islam.

Ege decided to burn his body and went to fetch barbecue gel from the kitchen. She told police she decided to destroy his corpse because "I was too nervous".

She claimed she could not stop herself beating her son and repeatedly pledged to God that she would not do it again, but her good intentions only lasted a few days.

The court heard how, after she was charged with murder, Ege had what appears to have been a breakdown and was sent to a psychiatric unit for several months. At various times she claimed to have been motivated by voices from the devil.



SHUCHENG (AFP) : This picture taken on February 25, 2012 shows Yao Defen, who was listed as the world's tallest woman by Guinness World Records in 2010, lying on her bed at her home as she suffered from gigantism, in Shucheng, central China's Anhui province. She stood 2.33 metres (seven foot eight inches) high, according to the record compiler's website and passed away on November 13, 2012 at the age of 40.

Beer is good for you: study finds anti-virus powers



TOKYO (AFP) - Consuming large quantities of a key ingredient in beer can protect against winter sniffles and even some serious illnesses in small children, a Japanese brewery said citing a scientific study.

A chemical compound in hops, the plant brewers use to give beer its bitter taste, provides an effective guard against a virus that can cause severe forms of pneumonia and bron-

chitis in youngsters, Sapporo Breweries said Wednesday.

In research with scientists at Sapporo Medical University, the compound -- humulone -- was found to be effective in curbing the respiratory syncytial (RS) virus, said the company, which funded the study.

The virus tends to spread in winter and can also cause cold-like symptoms in adults.

"We are now studying the feasibility of applying humulone to food or non-alcoholic products," he said. "The challenge really is that the bitter taste is going to be difficult for children."

The research also found that humulone alleviated inflammation caused by infection from the virus, the brewery said.



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Sci-Tech

Apple's CEO to bring production back to US



NEW YORK (AFP) - Apple plans to bring some manufacturing of its computers from China to the United States next year, chief executive Tim Cook said, in a move which may help spark more domestic high-tech production.

Cook, in two interviews released Thursday, said one line of Mac computers will be made exclusively in the United States, but did not say which one, nor did he say where the manufacturing would be done.

The interviews with NBC News, aired later Thursday, and with Bloomberg Businessweek, were the first since Cook took the reins at Apple from Steve Jobs, who died last year from cancer.

Cook told NBC one of the existing Mac lines will be manufactured exclusively in

the United States, which appeared to confirm rumors on some Apple-monitoring blogs saying people had seen iMacs inscribed with "Assembled in USA."

"We've been working for years on doing more and more in the United States," Cook told NBC.

Asked why Apple would not move out of China entirely and manufacture everything in

the United States, Cook told NBC, "It's not so much about price, it's about the skills."

Cook also told the broadcaster that he hopes the new project will help spur other US firms to bring manufacturing back home.

"The consumer electronics world was really never here," he said. "It's a matter of starting it here."

Scientists say NASA's budget inadequate for its goals

WASHINGTON (AFP) - NASA suffers from a "mismatch" between its goals and the budget it has been given to achieve them, according to a panel that said the US space agency may need a complete overhaul.

The National Research Council, which convened an independent group of top US scientists, urged the White House to set a clear agenda for the agency, amid disagreement in the scientific community, and in the country as a whole,

regarding just where the agency should be going.

"One stated goal for NASA's human spaceflight program is to visit an asteroid by 2025," he said, but he noted that scientists inside the agency have questioned this objective.

The study, which was sponsored by NASA, called on the White House to take the lead in setting long term priorities for the US space agency.

The panel said there were several possible ways to reduce the "mismatch," though it acknowledged any path would be difficult.

One scenario would involve "an aggressive restructuring program to reduce infrastructure and personnel costs and improve efficiency," the panel suggested.

Another would involve "more cost-sharing partnerships with other US government agencies, private sector industries, and international partners," while a third possibility would be to "increase the size of the NASA budget."

Thieves steal Israeli F-16 warplane engines: radio

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Thieves have made off with several US-made engines for F-16 warplanes worth millions of dollars from an airbase in central Israel, army radio reported on Thursday.

Israel's Walla Internet site said preliminary findings after an investigation by military police indicated there may have been collusion between the thieves and personnel, either military or civilian, at the base.

Army radio said a military spokesman had refused any comment on the incident, except to say that an official report on the inquiry would be sent to the military prosecutor.

Last year, the Israeli military police launched an investigation after parts for F-15 and F-16 warplanes from the Tel Nof airbase near Tel Aviv were discovered when police searched a warehouse used by scrap metal merchants.



SPACE : This NASA image obtained December 6, 2012 shows a new global view of Earth's city lights in part of Europe and North Africa and the Middle East at night in a composite assembled from data acquired by the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (Suomi NPP) satellite. The data was acquired over nine days in April 2012 and thirteen days in October 2012. It took satellite 312 orbits and 2.5 terabytes of data to get a clear shot of every parcel of Earth's land surface and islands. This new data was then mapped over existing Blue Marble imagery to provide a realistic view of the planet. The image was made possible by the satellite's "day-night band" of the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS), which detects light in a range of wavelengths from green to near-infrared and uses filtering techniques to observe dim signals such as city lights, gas flares, auroras, wildfires and reflected moonlight.

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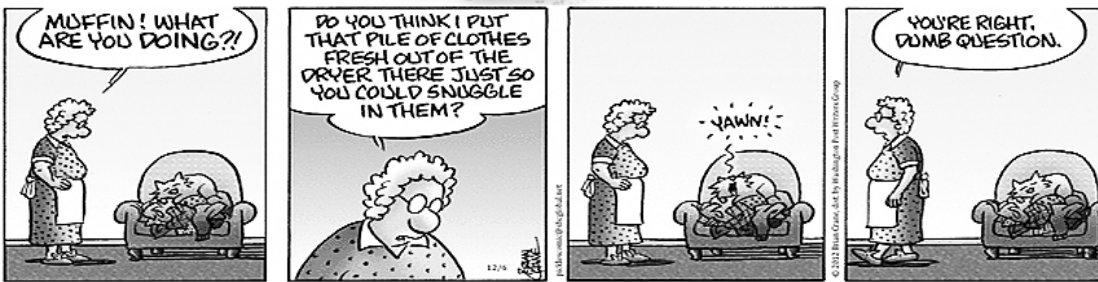
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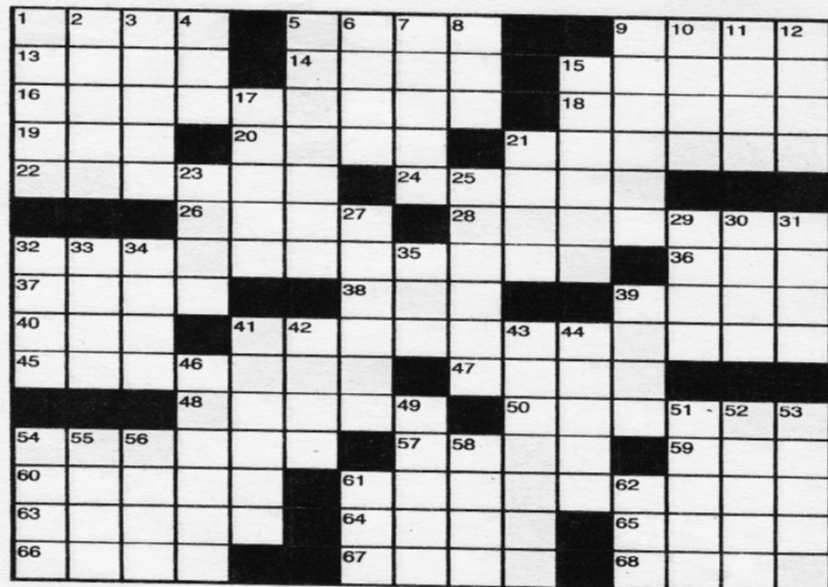
- 1. Mixer with rum
- 5. Drake or gander
- 9. Adjusts the lighting
- 13. Lena or Ken
- 14. "___ a little cottage girl" (Wordsworth)
- 15. IRS once-over
- 16. North Star State
- 18. Genetic twin
- 19. Rosary bead
- 20. "Travels with My ___" (Graham Greene)
- 21. Immoral
- 22. Passover commemorations
- 24. Cumin or coriander
- 26. Nip in the bud
- 28. Paul Revere and the ___
- 32. Flickertail State
- 36. Alpine skier Tommy
- 37. Metric land measures
- 38. Bird's beak
- 39. Muscat and ___
- 40. Stephen of "The Butcher Boy"
- 41. The Ocean State
- 45. Privateer
- 47. Nestled
- 48. " 'Tis good to keep ___ egg..."
- 50. Ends
- 54. Jangles
- 57. Did gardening work
- 59. Ode subject
- 60. Unruly crowd

- 61. Volunteer State
- 63. Keep ___ to the ground
- 64. Mined finds
- 65. Standard linear measure
- 66. True
- 67. Kind of pittance
- 68. Crumb toters

DOWN

- 1. Stupors
- 2. Mrs. Popeye
- 3. Like filler paper
- 4. Actress-dancer Reinking
- 5. Maltreated
- 6. Egyptian god
- 7. Riga residents
- 8. LAX letters
- 9. Blunted
- 10. One on a pedestal
- 11. Bomb underfoot
- 12. British firearm
- 15. Tree of the mimosa family
- 17. Home planet
- 21. Legal order
- 23. Olden verb endings
- 25. Investigations
- 27. Fine houses
- 29. Jane Austen's meddler
- 30. Sorrel sprinkled with white
- 31. Put in the mail
- 32. DEA staffer
- 33. Sandwich cookie
- 34. Nurture
- 35. ___ glove treatment
- 39. One of "The Three Sisters"
- 41. Forest worker
- 42. Gets moving
- 43. Fragrance in the form of a stick
- 44. Like Elvis's blue shoes
- 46. Forum footwear
- 49. "Voilà!"
- 51. Lucci of "All My Children"
- 52. Upright
- 53. Old-time daggers
- 54. Scorch
- 55. Before hand or wolf
- 56. Region
- 58. Stunning blow
- 61. Actor Hanks
- 62. Health resort

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4	2			6				
			7	5				
9						3	6	
1	9	6			5			
			4	3	8			
		8			4	2	1	
3	5							4
			9	4				
			2				9	8

SOLUTION

8	6	9	5	2	1	7	4	3
4	5	7	1	6	3	9	8	2
7	1	2	6	9	8	5	3	4
6	9	8	1	5	7	4	2	3
5	4	3	8	2	7	9	6	1
9	5	4	7	1	3	8	6	2
2	7	6	5	8	4	1	9	3
3	8	1	9	6	5	2	7	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Obama warns of human cost of fiscal cliff

VIRGINIA (AFP) - President Barack Obama traveled to the suburban apartment of a high school teacher Thursday, to warn of the human cost of failing to solve the US "fiscal cliff" tax and austerity crisis.

Obama sat at the kitchen table of Tiffany Santana in Virginia to issue a new warning that he would not agree to any deal with Republicans that did not raise the top tax rate on the richest Americans.

"For them to be burdened unnecessarily because Democrats and Republicans aren't coming together to solve those problems gives you a sense of the costs on personal terms," Obama said.

If there is no deal to avert

the so-called "fiscal cliff," a mix of automatic tax rises and massive spending cuts, taxes on all Americans will go up on January 1.

Obama wants to extend George W. Bush-era tax cuts for almost all Americans, but let the rates on the two percent of richest earners go up from 35 to 39.6 percent to finance cuts to the bloated deficit.

Tiffany Santana said that she can ill afford to pay higher taxes, saying the money she would lose next year would be the equivalent of two months' rent.

Obama spoke to House of Representatives speaker John Boehner on Wednesday, but

there are no clear signs that the two sides are any closer to narrowing their positions as they search for a compromise.

In what they bill as a concession, Republicans say they are willing to bring more revenue into the government, but insist it can only be done by closing tax loopholes and capping deductions.

Obama says such a method would not raise sufficient funds to significantly reduce the deficit and is insisting on rate hikes.

The president presented an initial offer last week, while Boehner presented a counterbid. Both have been rejected outright by the other side.

Greece seen as EU's most corrupt country: NGO

BERLIN (AFP) - Greece is seen as the most corrupt country in the EU, Transparency International said, adding that crisis-hit nations are being held back by an inability to deal with graft.

Publishing its annual Corruption Perceptions Index, the Berlin-based watchdog ranked Greece 94th out of 176 countries.

Perceived corruption in the country appeared to have worsened despite efforts to tackle graft. In last year's index, the debt-ravaged country was ranked 80th on a scale of least corrupt to most corrupt.

Fellow eurozone struggler Italy also fared poorly, coming in 72nd -- a decline from last year's study when the country was ranked 69th.

The director of Transparency International (TI) in Germany, Edda Mueller, told a news conference that the fight against corruption was intimately linked to the economic health of a country.

TI ranks countries on a scale

from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean).

Top of the class this year were Denmark, Finland and New Zealand, each with a score of 90 due to a "strong access to information systems and rules governing the behaviour of those in public positions."

Lawless Somalia, North Korea and Afghanistan remain rooted to the foot of the table, each scoring eight points. Afghanistan scored poorly despite efforts to tackle rampant corruption.

Among other major nations, the United States came in 19th, just behind Japan and Britain, which were ranked equal 17th.


China was well below the 50-point mark, coming in 80th

with a score of 39. Russia was in 133rd place with a meagre 28 points.

Germany was 13th with 79 points, ahead of fellow European powerhouse France, which was 22nd with 71 points.

ECB sees eurozone economy shrinking in 2012, 2013

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The eurozone economy is set to contract both this year and next year, but will return to growth in 2014, the European Central Bank predicted on Thursday.



Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
12/06/2012				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	193.56
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	235.16
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.52
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	31.77
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	32.30
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	218.43

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Brazil unveils \$27 bn port upgrade plan

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil on Thursday unveiled a \$27 billion concession plan to upgrade the country's ports and stimulate the country's sluggish economic growth.

President Dilma Rousseff announced the plan -- which calls for \$15 billion in investments during the 2014-2015 period and \$12 billion during 2016-2017 -- at an event attended by government and corporate leaders.

The program is a call for business leaders "to invest in the modernization and expansion of port capacity in partnership with the state," Rousseff said.

The plan includes a \$1.3 billion investment in improving access by land to the ports, a new regulatory system, an overhaul of the port network administration and incentives for investors.

The main goal is to speed up the movement of goods through the ports while lowering costs, said Leonidas Cristino, the official in charge of managing the network of ports.

Brazil, the world's sixth largest economy and host of the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Rio summer Olympics, has 8,500 kilometers (5,200 miles) of waterways and a network of 37 ports, including three under private concession.

In August, the government launched a similar investment plan worth \$60 billion for roads and railways.

ECB president Mario Draghi told a news conference here that said the central bank now expected the euro area economy to contract by 0.5 percent in 2012 and again by 0.3 percent in 2013, but return to growth of 1.2 percent for 2014.

In September, the staff projections had foreseen a contraction of 0.4 percent this year and growth of 0.5 percent next year.

These were mainly related to "uncertainties about the resolution of sovereign debt and governance issues in the euro area, geopolitical issues and fiscal policy decisions in the United States," he added.

Turning to inflation, the ECB staff projections saw area-wide inflation averaging 2.5 percent this year, 1.6 percent in 2013 and 1.4 percent in 2014.

The ECB's overriding priority is to keep eurozone inflation at close to but just below 2.0 percent on a 12-month basis.



FRANCE (AFP) Faches-Thumesnil : A customer pays at a register with a smartphone application on December 6, 2012 in a Auchan supermarket in Faches-Thumesnil near Lille, northern France. The "flash and pay", an application developed by the Auchan group, allows customers to manage their shopping list, coupons, loyalty programs, budget and payments with their smartphones in any store offering the service.

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E	S	C	A	P	E	K	E	A	S	S	E	T			
				N	I	X	O	N	S	L	E	E	K		
R	E	F	R	O	S	E	A	I	N	T					
A	D	I	T		R	U	N	E	B	A	A				
N	E	L	L		L	I	S	T	E	N	U	R	N		
E	R	E	C	T	E	D		E	N	T	I	T	L	E	
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T	R	E	N	T		A	T	E		M	O	N	E	T	
I	R	E			T	E	D		E	D	G	E	D		

Costa Rica gets world's newest Chinatown



SAN JOSE (AFP) - Costa Rica on Wednesday opened the world's newest Chinatown, thanks to a million-dollar donation from China.

The Central American nation's capital, San Jose, is the new home of the 650-meter area lined with shops decorated with symbols of Chinese culture.

Mayor Johnny Araya, one of the project's main backers, opened the area, which is crowned by a traditional Chi-

nese arch, and also includes jewelry shops and Asian restaurants.

The Chinese government paid for half of the project's two-million-dollar price tag, according to its architect Mariano Urena.

Costa Rica renewed diplomatic ties with China in June 2007. Subsequently, Beijing made a number of large donations including \$100 million for the new National Stadium which opened in March 2011.

Treigonometry solves Christmas decoration dilemma



PARIS (AFP) - Mathematics has provided an answer for those striving for the perfect Christmas tree, Britain's University of Sheffield says. The university's Maths Society was set the challenge of decorating a tree so that greenery and glitz are in harmonious proportion, resolving the problem of a tree that is either too barren or gaudy.

Here's their formula:

- Number of baubles: Take the square root of 17, divide it by 20 and multiply it by the height of tree (in centimetres).

- Length of tinsel: 13 multiplied by pi (3.1415) divided by 8, then multiplied by tree height.

- Length of tree lights: Pi multiplied by tree height

- Height (in centimetres) of star or fairy on top of tree: Tree height divided by 10.

"For example, a 180cm (six-feet) Christmas tree would need 37 baubles, around 919 cms of tinsel (30 feet) and 565 cms (19 feet) of lights, and an 18cm (seven-inch) star or angel is required to achieve the perfect look," the University says. For those seeking an easier way of figuring this out, its website (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/news/nr/debenhams-christmas-tree-formula-1.227810>) has a simple-to-use calculator.



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Raphael drawing smashes record at London auction



LONDON (AFP) - A drawing by Italian Renaissance master Raphael fetched £29.7 million (\$47.8 million, 36.6 million euros) at a London sale on Wednesday, a record for any work on paper sold at auction.

Following a battle between four bidders, the hammer eventually came down at Sotheby's auction house on a bid cast by telephone, making "Head of an Apostle" (c. 1519-20) the second most expensive

Old Master artwork.

"If you are lucky, at some point in your career a work like this comes along," said Gregory Rubinstein, Worldwide Head of Old Master Drawings at Sotheby's.

"A number of the world's greatest collectors stepped up tonight in recognition of the genius of Raphael and the extraordinary beauty of this drawing with its exceptional provenance."

The drawing, executed in black chalk, depicts one of the key figures in Raphael's "Transfiguration", one of the most important Renaissance paintings.

The painting was hanged at the artist's head when his body was laid out in his studio following his death in Rome in 1520, aged 37.

The winning bid smashed the pre-sale estimate of £10-15 million.



5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, (\$4.49 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas, The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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SPORTS

**Football:
Henderson
leads
Liverpool
into last 32**

PARIS (AFP) - Jordan Henderson fired Liverpool into the Europa League knockout stages, scoring the decisive goal in the five-time European champions' 1-0 win at Udinese on Thursday.

Brendan Rodgers' side ended up topping Group A, ahead of already qualified Anzhi Makhachkala, beaten 3-1 by Young Boys - with this trio all finishing the group stage on 10 points.

Two of the other five last 32 round tickets on offer in Thursday's closing group stage action were claimed by Steaua Bucharest and VfB Stuttgart from Group E.

Tottenham can emulate Liverpool's feat by avoiding defeat to Panathinaikos at White Hart Lane later.

Liverpool turned up in Italy with their Europa League destiny in their own hands - knowing a win would assure them of passage to the knockout stages, irrespective of the outcome of the other Group A tie between Anzhi and Young Boys.

Newcastle travelled to Bordeaux with qualification already in the bag but Alan Pardew's men missed out on denying the French side of top spot in Group D after a 2-0 defeat.

Czech side Viktoria Plzen beat Atletico Madrid 1-0 to deny the defending champions top spot in Group B.

The top two teams from each of the 12 first round groups are joined by the eight Champions League castaways, featuring for the first time ever the defending European champions in Chelsea.

The Blues' presence adds spice to a competition which UEFA is considering scrapping in favour of an extension to the Champions League format later this decade.

Baseball: At winter meetings....



Yankees offer Youkilis one-year, \$12 million deal

NASHVILLE. -- When the Winter Meetings began this week, the top free agents available were outfielder Josh Hamilton and pitcher Zack Greinke.

When the annual baseball conclave ended yesterday, Hamilton and Greinke remained the top free agents on the market.

There was plenty of activ-

ity in the sprawling complex, but few announcements. The Rockies got Wilton Lopez from the Astros. The Rays acquired shortstop Yunel Escobar from the Marlins. The Tigers picked up catcher Ramon Cabrera from the Pirates. The Phillies addressed their need for a center fielder by getting Ben Revere from the Twins for right-handers Vance Worley and Trevor May.

There were several lesser free-agent signings that were widely reported, but won't become official until physicals are completed.

But the fact that Hamilton and Greinke still haven't landed are the major reasons why the big podium set up for breaking news was empty most of the week, executives say.

"When those first-tier free agents fall into place, that determines where the other free agents will sign. And a lot of the trade options don't become real until the free agents are in place. I think between now and Christmas, you'll see a lot of those deals fall into place," said Orioles general manager Dan Duquette.

One of the reasons the market has developed slowly is that teams have money to spend after agreeing to lucrative new television deals.

The Red Sox were one of the teams to jump out there, signing both Napoli and Victorino to deals reported to be worth \$39 million over three years. That came after giving outfielder Jonny Gomes a two-year, \$10 million contract. Those numbers may have helped raise the expectations of the remaining free-agent market.

"I think the indications of what some of the signings were means it's a very healthy industry," said Phillies assistant general manager Scott Proefrock. "I was maybe a little surprised there weren't more trades but, again, when you get in these situations, it's sort of a percolator for ideas. A lot of discussions go on at all levels in the organization. A lot of those get flushed out and then the ones that have some legs to them, those get pursued over the course of the next couple weeks."

While the Winter Meetings provide a focal point for attention on baseball in the offseason, the reality is that many of the discussions and negotiations that took place this week won't result in actual moves until later.

ISAF Sailing World Cup

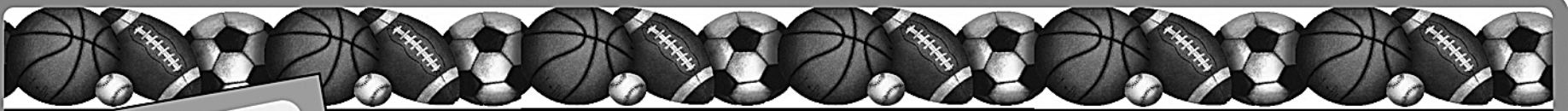


MELBOURNE (AFP) : Maia and Ragna Agerup of Norway sail through the waves in the 49er FX class at the ISAF Sailing World Cup event in Melbourne on December 6, 2012. (The International Sailing Federation (ISAF) is recognised by the International Olympic Committee as the world governing body for the sport of sailing.)

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NBA: Bryant reaches 30,000-point milestone in Lakers win

NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - Kobe Bryant became the youngest player to reach 30,000 career points in the NBA on Wednesday as he helped the Los Angeles Lakers to a 103-87 victory over the New Orleans Hornets.

With 1:16 left in the second quarter, Bryant drove into the lane and rose to connect on a jump shot, taking his tally for the contest to 14 and for his career to 30,001.

He joined Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387), Karl Malone (36,928), Michael Jordan (32,292) and Wilt Chamberlain (31,419).

"It feels good," "I've been very fortunate that I haven't really had any serious injuries.



It's been a lot of sacrifice on my part and my family's part" At 34 years old, he's the youngest player in history to reach the milestone. Chamberlain was 35 years old, while Malone and Abdul-Jabbar were both 36 and Jordan 38.

However, Bryant was the fifth-fastest player in terms of games played to reach the milestone, achieving it in his 1,179th contest. Chamberlain got there in 941 games.

NBA Commissioner David Stern was on hand to see the

feat, but Bryant was just as concerned that the Lakers reversed their recent fortunes with a victory.

He finished with 29 points and six rebounds as the Lakers ended a two-game skid. They bounced back from a disappointing loss at Houston -- where they surrendered a double-digit fourth-quarter lead -- to win for just the second time on the road this season.

Dwight Howard added 18 points, eight rebounds and five blocks for the Lakers.

Juan Manuel Marquez's newfound muscle questioned!

LAS VEGAS - Juan Manuel Marquez said he's "ready to go to war" with Manny Pacquiao, but the presence of an admitted steroids distributor in his corner Saturday night and a vastly more muscular body has skeptics questioning his new physique. Marquez will meet Pacquiao for a fourth, and likely final, time on Saturday at the MGM Grand Garden in a 12-round welterweight bout on HBO Pay-Per-View. Though he believes he won each of their first three fights, Marquez is winless, losing the last two after getting a draw in the first. Three years ago, when Marquez was 36, he moved up from lightweight to welterweight to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr. Marquez looked puny next to Mayweather and had no muscle definition. It was hardly a surprise, though, since Marquez had never weighed more than 135 in a fight and weighed less than 130 in 50 of his 55 fights to that point. Now, Marquez's physique has undergone a transformation, he has big, bulging biceps, thick shoulders and a wide, broad chest. He accomplished this after he hired Angel Guillermo "Memo" Heredia as his strength and conditioning coach. Marquez vehemently denies the use of any performance-enhancing drugs. If he dominates or knocks out Pacquiao, he likely won't receive the acclaim and the respect he seeks because so many would believe it to be a tainted victory.

on way to 2014 World cup



SALVADOR, Brazil : TOPSHOTS Handout picture released by the City of Salvador de Bahia municipality showing an aerial view dated November 5, 2012 of Salvador de Bahia's stadium "Arena Fonte Nova" under works before next June's eight-nation Confederations Cup. The competition which is a dress rehearsal for the the 2014 World Cup will notably bring together four former world champions.

Football: Messi feeling good after injury scare

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona star Lionel Messi reassured fans he was feeling good after taking part in light training on Thursday despite being stretchered off with a knee injury during the 0-0 draw at home to Benfica in the Champions League.

The 25-year-old worked in the gym as his team-mates trained outside and afterwards said he still had a chance of playing in the La Liga clash against Real Betis on Sunday.

Messi came on in the 58th minute of Wednesday's tie only to collide with Benfica goalkeeper Artur Moraes six minutes from time in a match that was meaningless to Barcelona but where he was chasing his 85th goal of the calendar year which would have equalled Gerd Mueller's long-standing record.

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Aruba's volleyball selections making history...



Aruba's Ladies Volleyball selection

--Aruba's Ladies Volleyball Selection moves on to 2nd round of "FIVB World Championship Qualification Tournament"

Recently, the Ladies Volleyball selection of Aruba made history after winning their qualification match which took place in Jamaica. Their victory also granted them a bronze medal and a spot in the 2nd round of the "FIVB World Qualification Championships." Volleyball on Aruba is growing as the men's selection also qualified for the second round of the

World Championships for the first time in Aruba's volleyball history.

Head coach Igmarr Ogenia, assisted by Jonathan Petrona did a great job lead-



Jackie Toussaint (Captain)



Best Setter of the Competition Aruba's Afraina Ammerlaan at left

ing the ladies team to victory. The delegation that headed to Jamaica was led by Rita Vrolijk- Ruiz.

In Jamaica Aruba went up against teams such as Jamaica, Barbados, and Cayman Islands, where the teams finishing in the top 3 spots would continue to the 2nd round, which will be played next year.

Aruba put up a fierce battle against Cayman Islands for third place and in both occasions the Aruban selection led by Captain Jackie Toussaint beat Cayman 3-0. This victory gave Aruba the bronze medal and the passage to the 2nd round.

The selection consisted of: Jackie Toussaint (Captain),

Iraida Dorothal, Cherlaine Ras, Juleisy Castillo, Jamila Elaazize, Julianne Dorothal, Aljenshka Howell, Natia Figaroa, Ghislaine van der Linde, Yubily Oduber, Afraina Ammerlaan y Kathlyn Baarh.

Representing Aruba as referee was Leonard Hilman.

Aruba's Afraina Ammerlaan was named "Best Setter" of the tournament.

The Aruban community, the Aruba Volleyball Association (AVA) and The Morning News congratulate the selection for a job well done!

Practice is The effort that makes winning possible.
And next year girls: Ban Pe!




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